

NOTICE OF A SECOND DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE EAST END
CONNECTOR FROM THE DURHAM FREEWAY (N.C. 147) TO NORTH OF
HOLLOWAY STREET (N.C. 98) IN DURHAM

TIP Project No. U-0071

Durham County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) held a Design Public Hearing for the above-referenced project in March 2010. Due to a delay in the newsletter delivery, some citizens did not receive timely notification. Therefore, NCDOT will host a second informal, drop-in style Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 27, 2010.

NCDOT representatives will be available to discuss the project in an informal setting between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the gymnasium of the Holton Career and Resource Center, located at 401 N. Driver Street in Durham. Parking and entrance to the Center is behind the building, between Taylor and Southgate Streets. **Note:** there will be no formal presentation. Comments and suggestions received before, during and after the public hearing will be considered as project plans are refined. Written comments will be accepted until May 14, 2010.

NCDOT proposes the East End Connector project to provide a direct freeway connection between the Durham Freeway (N.C. 147) and U.S. 70 in Durham County. The 3.6 mile project will begin on the Durham Freeway near Glover Road and end on U.S. 70 just south of Cheek Road. The Connector will be designed to interstate standards. It also will provide a freeway-to-freeway connection between U.S. 70 and the Durham Freeway.

The proposed project will upgrade U.S. 70 to a freeway from Holloway Street (N.C. 98) to Pleasant Drive. U.S. 70 has already been upgraded to a freeway north of Holloway Street.

The initial phase of the Connector includes two continuous through lanes in each direction divided by a 50-foot median, plus merge lanes as needed. A future phase of the Connector would include adding an additional continuous through lane in each direction that would be constructed in the median.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve traffic capacity by relieving future congestion on the Durham Freeway through downtown Durham. It will provide direct access to Interstate 40 to the south and Interstate 85 to the north. It will divert traffic from local streets such as Roxboro, Mangum, Gregson and Duke streets in downtown Durham.

Previously, right-of-way acquisition was scheduled to begin in 2010, with construction to begin in 2013. However, NCDOT is reevaluating this schedule as part of the upcoming State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and will announce a new schedule this summer. NCDOT currently is in the process of prioritizing for the draft STIP, which will show the projects NCDOT can afford to fund from 2015-2020. To learn more, visit www.ncdot.gov.

Maps displaying the location and design of the project and a copy of the environmental document, the Environmental Assessment (EA), are available for public review at: The City of Durham – Transportation Division, located at 101 City Hall Plaza (4th floor), and at the NCDOT Highway Division 5 Office, located at 2612 N. Duke Street, in Durham. The EA and the hearing map are available online at: www.ncdot.gov/projects/eastendconnector/. The EA also can be viewed at: www.durhamnc.gov/departments/works/pdf/EECEEA10_2009.pdf.

Anyone desiring additional information may contact Drew Joyner, P.E., NCDOT-Human Environment Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598, phone (919) 431-6700, or e-mail: djoyner@ncdot.gov.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who want to participate in this hearing. Anyone requiring special services should contact Mr. Joyner as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.